

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00693 190034Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 NEA-10 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCEM-02

SCI-06 INT-08 NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 DODE-00

PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 FPC-01 DRC-01 /213 W

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R 171430Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3275

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR

SUBJECT: FUEL SUPPLIES FOR BELIZE

REF: GEORGETOWN 1747 (NOTAL)

1. I TALKED WITH MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, A. A. HUNTER, UPON HIS RETURN TO BELIZE FROM GEORGETOWN. HE SAID HE HAD ACCOMPANIED JAMAICAN MINISTER OF MINING AND NATURAL RESOURCES, THE HON. ALLAN ISACCS, ON HIS RETURN TO BELIZE VIA KINGSTON. HIS JAMAICAN COLLEAGUE, ACCORDING TO HUNTER, CALLED IN EXXON OFFICIALS UPON HIS RETURN AND ORDERED THEM TO START SUPPLYING

BELIZE. IF JAMAICA RECEIVES A CUT IN CRUDE FOR ITS REFINERY THEN IT WOULD TAKE THE CUT AND PASS IT ALONG AT THE SAME PERCENTAGE TO BELIZE.

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2. HUNTER EXPLAINED THAT JAMAICA RECEIVED ALL ITS CRUDE FOR THE EXXON REFINERY FROM VENEZUELA AND THE REFINERY HAD FIRM CONTRACTS FOR DELIVERY. THE GOJ DOES NOT BELIEVE ITS CRUDE DELIVERIES WILL BE CUT. THUS, HUNTER WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE ENERGY CRISIS IS OVER IN BELIZE. HUNTER ALSO NOTED THAT TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CRUDE COULD NOT BE USED IN THE JAMAICA REFINERY WITHOUT BLENDING IT WITH OTHER, HIGHER QUALITY, CRUDE. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, AS FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED, IS NOT ABLE TO SUPPLY THE CARIBBEAN WITH ITS PETROLEUM NECESSITIES REGARDLESS OF ITS GOOD INTENTIONS.

3. HUNTER DOES NOT HAVE COMPLETE FAITH IN THE ABILITY OF EXXON TO CONTINUE DELIVERIES FROM ARUBA. DUTCH INTERESTS IN ARUBA, HE CLAIMS, ARE LARGE, AND WITH THE ARAB EMBARGO ON THE DUTCH, HE HEARS THAT THEY WILL SIPHON AWAY AS MUCH FROM ARUBA AS POSSIBLE AS DELIVERIES FROM ARAB PRODUCERS CEASE.

4. COVMENT: HUNTER'S OPTIMISM IS BASED ON TWO ASSUMPTIONS:

(1) THE GOJ CAN INDEED ORDER EXXON TO REINSTATE DELIVERIES TO BELIZE AND (2) VENEZUELAN CRUDE DELIVERIES TO JAMAICA WILL NOT BE CUT. IF BOTH ASSUMPTIONS HOLD, THEN HUNTER BROUGHT GOOD NEWS WITH HIM FROM JAMAICA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ENLIGHTENMENT FROM ADDRESSEES. DRISCOLL

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